20: Hart *E-5 (1951) 1954 OA1 Philippines
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cities and 18,859 barrios in the Republic of the Philippines.[4] Some basic statistics on Negros are given in Table I. (See Plate III.)[1]

TABLE I

Province	Square Miles	Population (1948)	Number of Municipalities (1952)	Number[5] of Barrios (1952)
Negros Occidental	2977	1,038,758	30	314
Negros Oriental	2020	386,203	21	330
Siquijor Island Sub-province	129	57,258	6	133
	5126	1,482,219	57	777

The most important function of provincial governments is supervision of the various municipal governments within a province.[6] The provincial governor and board are elected by the people of the province as are mayors and many of the municipal officials. The municipal

[4] Ibid., p.8. Since the 1948 census Mindoro Island has been divided into two provinces, Mindoro Oriental and Mindoro Occidental.

[5] Ibid., pp.169-78. Since the 1948 census four new municipalities have been established in Negros: Asia, Sipalay, Magallon and Pamplona. The new barrios which were also created in these municipalities have been added to the abovr chart.

[6] Joseph R. Hayden, The Philippines: A Study in National Development. New York, Macmillan Company, 1945, p.266.

[p. 30 -- ANALYST]

'Visayan' only for the areas just mentioned, while the people of Cebu, Bohol, and Leyte were for a long time known only as Pintados. The name 'Visayan' was later extended to them because...their languages are closely allied to the Visayan dialect of Panay.[15] 101

In 1942 there were about 7,200,000 Visayan Filipinos living in more than twenty major islands and several hundred smaller ones. In addition to the coastal regions of Mindanao, six large islands inhabited almost exclusively by Visayans are Cebu, Bohol, Negros, Panay, Leyte and Samar. (See Plate IV.)[1] The largest group of Visayans are the Cebuanos (3,940,000) who occupy Negros Oriental province, Cebu, Bohol and other Visayan islands. The barriofolk of Caticugan are almost entirely Cebuanos. The Panayanos (2,085,000) inhabit most of Negros Occidental province, Panay, Guimaras, and other Visayan islands. In 1942 the population of eastern Leyte and Samar island totalled 995,000, the people (most of whom) speaking a modified Cebuano dialect called Wari-Wari. A small enclave of people living in the Aklan River valley of Panay (about 180,000) may have migrated to the Philippines before the arrival of the Borneo emigrants who settled the island in the 13th century.[16] 161 162

The Cebuanos and Panayanos (the latter are often called Ilongos) speak different dialects. Beyer believes that Cebuano is probably the least modified of the 197 174

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[15] G. Nye Steiger, H. Otley Beyer and Conrado Benitez, A History of the Orient. New York, Ginn and Company, 1926, pp.122-3.

[16] H. Otley Beyer, "The People of the Philippines." Unpublished book manuscript. Manila, 1943, p.173.

[See p.36, Cat. 162--Analyst]

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Population of Negros

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Negros is the fourth most populous island in the Philippines, Negros Occidental the second most populous province.

TABLE VIII

Five Most Populous Islands and Provinces in the Philippines (1948)[63]

Islands	Population	Provinces	Population
Luzon	9,185,826	Cebu	1,123,107
Mindanao	2,702,498	Negros Occidental	1,038,758
Panay	1,491,759	Leyte	1,006,891
Negros	1,424,961	Pangasinan (Luzon)	982,906
Cebu	1,123,107	Iloilo (Panay	816,382

Bacolod (101,432) is the eighth largest city in the Philippines with only 65,000 fewer persons than the second largest city, Cebu. Negros Oriental is the thirteenth most populous province in the Philippines; its capital, Dumaguete (24,838), is one of 792 cities in the Philippines with a population over 5,000 and under 25,000. Nearly 75 per cent of the people of Negros lives in Negros Occidental; its sister province, composing about 40 per cent of the island's total land area, is relative thinly populated.

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Philippine Social Trends reports that in 1939 23 per cent of the Filipinos "lived in cities and

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[63] 1948 Philippine Census (Population), p. 9 and passim. The population of Siquijor Island is omitted from the population of Negros. In 1948 the population of this sub-province of Negros Oriental was 57,258.

'poblaciones'" and 77 per cent lived in barrios. This study states that "from partial tabulated figures of the 1948 census, it is estimated that ... 25 per cent of the population ... lived in barrios and ... 75 per cent lived in cities and 'poblaciones.'"[64] This alleged shift in the composition of the population of the Philippines, from 23 percent urban to 75 per cent, between the two censuses, is misleading. The recent Rivera-McMillan barrio study states that "from 67 to 70 per cent [of the population] resides in places with fewer than 2,500 inhabitants."[65] A barrio in the census is often several sitios, scattered over an area of several square miles. Barrio Caticugan is an excellent example of this condition. The census population figures for these settlements, however, are given under the name of one barrio according to the enumerators' boundaries. There are many barrios which have a larger population than the poblacion of their municipality. One example is the population of "Barrio Ma-ao" (Bago, Negros Occidental) with 24,089 persons (1948) while only 2,335 inhabitants lived in the municipality's poblacion.[66] Under the

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[64] Philippine Social Trends: Basic Documents Pertinent to Long-Range Social Welfare Planning in the Philippines. Manila, published by the President's Action Committee on Social Amelioration, assisted by the United Nations consultants, Bureau of Printing, 1950, p.32.

[65] Rivera and McMillan, op. cit., p.3. The rural population of the Philippines, as defined by the Bureau of Census, refers to all persons living in barrios regardless of size; the urban population includes those residing in large cities and poblacions, the latter often having only a few hundred residents.

[66] 1948 Philippine Census (Population), pp.169 and 175.

Bureau of Census method Barrio-Ma-ao would be classified as rural and Bago poblacion would be considered an urban center.[67] 162

To use the classification employed by the United States Census which defines settlements of more than 2,500 persons as urban is unrealistic in the Philippines. A community of 2,500 persons in the United States may be an urban center, but a settlement with the same number in the Philippines would be rural. The data available make any attempt to divide the population of the Philippines into rural, rurban, and urban exceedingly difficult. No one method will satisfy all. For Negros the writer has arbitrarily doubled the usual urban population figure to 5,000, and has classified persons living in smaller settlements as rural. By this method the urban population of the island as a whole is 39.5 per cent; the urban population in Negros Occidental is 48 per cent and in Negros Oriental 31 per cent. One factor which partially explains the higher urban population percentage in Negros Occidental is the concentration of people in the many sugar centrals of this province.[68]

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[67] Philippine Social Trends states that the population shift from rural or urban "...may have been conditioned by the fact that pacification operations [against the Hukbalahaps] were active in the rural areas in October and that enumerators, therefore, called rural persons to the nearest poblacion for enumeration." This is probably true yet it would not affect all of Luzon and other islands where the Huk forces were weak or did not exist. p.32.

[68] Siquijor has no communities over 5,000 people.

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Two large population movements are observed in the Philippines; one is from rural to urban areas and the other from areas of high population density to areas of lower density. The low ratio of males to females (ages 15 to 34 years) in the barrios surveyed by the Rivera-McMillan study suggests that rural to urban migration is selective of young males.

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Since Chapter III discusses the historical growth of Negros' population, this section is concerned with present demographic patterns. (See Plate XIII.)[1] The population of Negros is concentrated in plains and lowlands; the rugged Central Mountain range and the isolated Tablas plateau are relatively blank on the population map. Large areas in southwestern Negros have less than 100 persons per square mile.

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The increase in population densities of Negros between 1903 and 1948 are given in Table IX.[69]

TABLE IX

Population Densities in Negros (Persons Per Square Mile)

Province (Island)	1903	1918	1939	1948
Negros (Total)	91	120	222	270
Negros Occidental	104	133	277	349
Negros Oriental (Excluding Siquijor)	77	107	166	191

1 [See p. 91, cat. 162--Analyst]

[69] The population densities differ in various sources due to the varying areas given Negros and its provinces and whether or not Siquijor is included in Negros Oriental. Census of the Philippine Islands: Taken under the Direction of the Philippine Commission in the Year 1903. Washington, D.C., U.S. Bureau of Census, 1905, II, p.28. Census of the Philippine Islands: 1918. Washington, D.C., Bureau of Printing, 1921, II, "Population and Mortality," p.28. Commission of the Census: Census of the Philippine Islands: 1939. Washington, D.C., Bureau of Printing, 1940, I, "Reports of Provinces, Part 3," page 4 of section on Negros Oriental and page 3 of section on Negros Occidental.

20: Hart E-5 (1951)'1954 OA1 Philippine.
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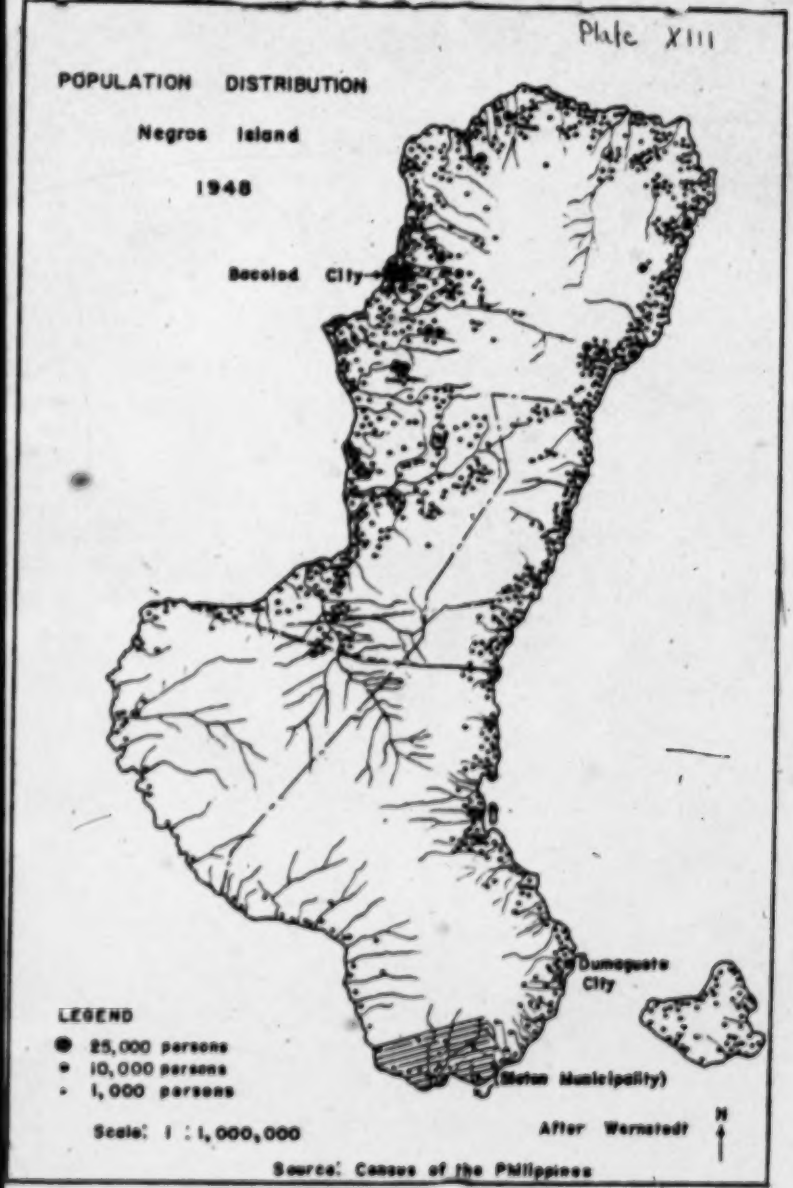
Plate XIII



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The Barrio Population map shows the distribution of Siaton municipality's population according to barrio districts established for the 1948 census.[75] (See Plate XV.)[1] There are many problems in working with the census figures. First, the individual population of each sitio is not given. For example, in 1948 the population of Barrio Caticugan was 676 persons, all listed is the census report under "Barrio Caticugan." Actually the people lived in ten other settlements besides Caticugan. The population of Caticugan, including

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[75] Population of the various settlements in Siaton municipality from 1903 to 1948:

Name	1903	1918	1939	1948
Poblacion	2113	2468	2618	2364
Apoloy	—	291	358	356
Bonawon	—	824	1364	2393
Bonbonon	1283	1383	1117	1200
Camboay	445	—	—	—
Cabangahan	—	236	642	874
Calanan	—	334	344	350
Canaway	600	1063	1167	789
Casala-an	988	736	898	625
CATICUGAN	1076	618	733	676
Datag	—	—	559	529
Giliga-on	1002	692	1099	1066
Inalad	1181	1074	948	1026
Maloh	—	388	697	686
Mantiquil	—	240	220	239
Mantuyop	1209	1153	1125	1089
Napacao	—	56	368	260
Sandolot	—	714	457	568
Siit	—	84	571	854
Sumaliring	177	360	1273	1224
Tayak	—	307	322	658

Sources: Census of the Philippines. The 1918 census lists a barrio called Tayne which, according to informants, never existed. It is presumed Tayne was a misspelling of Tayak and the figures are included under this latter barrio.

1 [See p. 97, cat. 162 -- Analyst]

20: Part E-5 (.95.) 1954 OA: Philippines
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PLATE XV p.97

Caticugan, Dangola, Naga, and Talo-ot, was 578 according to my census made in 1951. However, there was no way to determine the population of the other sitios except by additional censuses, and time did not permit. Barrio or sitio locations are also indicated on the map, the majority being near the coast, rivers, or the National Road.[76]

The census figures are misleading if one attempts to analyse the decline or rise of the population of individual barrios in Siaton. Even though the inhabitants state and all evidence indicates that the population of Caticugan (including Naga, Talo-ot and Dangola) has increased considerably since 1900, the census figures show a decrease. Sitios often are transferred from one barrio district to another between censuses and no records are made of these changes. This is the explanation for the very rapid increase of population of Barrio Sumaliring between 1918 and 1939, from 360 persons to 1,273. Some sitios counted in 1918 as part of the poblacion were transferred to Sumaliring before 1939.

I tried to untangle this situation for Siaton municipality but abandoned it as hopeless. However, to

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[76] The locations of many barrios and sitios were made by questioning informants. The writer did not visit all of them. There is no certainty that all of them are shown and the location of many is approximate on Plate XVI. Some settlements are shown north of Siaton's municipal boundary for the people consider them part of their municipality. The barrios in the region along the Siaton River valley to Apoloy and the strip through which the National Road passes are the most accurately located communities on this map.

illustrate the complexities of the changes and to offer partial explanations, Camboay and Napacao were once sitios of Canaway; Cabangahan and Bonawon sitios of Giliga-on; Maloh and Datag sitios of the poblacion; Mantiquil, Sandolot, and Calanan sitios of Casala-an; and Tayak a sitio of Bonbonon. The dates of the various transfers were unknown by the inhabitants.

The census figures indicate that the poblacion and barrios Bonbonon, Caticugan, Giliga-on, Inalad, and Mantuyop--all bordering the present National Road--are the oldest settlements. The census data also suggest strongly that the Siaton River valley was relatively thickly settled at an early date; in 1903 there were nearly 1,000 persons in the somewhat isolated vicinity of Casala-an. The history of this area, presented in Chapter III, supports this tentative conclusion.

Barrio Bonawon's population increased more rapidly than any other locality in Siaton municipality. From 824 inhabitants in 1918 the Bonawon vicinity grew to 2,393 persons by 1948. Between 1939 and 1948, for example, the population doubled. As a case study special attention was given to this vicinity. Once a sitio of Barrio Giliga-on, Bonawon was relatively isolated from the eastern part of the municipality due to inadequate transportation. Probably not until 1930 did busses reach Bonawon. Bonawon has fertile soils and, being

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In June, 1565, Father Andres de Urdaneta, the "immortal partner of Legaspi," and some companions landed near Escalante where the Danaw (Danao) River debouches into the sea. They explored the locality, saw some Negritos, and left several wooden crosses as a sign of Spanish possession.[5] At this period Negros appears to have been relatively uninhabited except for roving bands of Negritos and several villages on the eastern and western coasts of the island, in the general vicinity of Ilog and Tanjay. It is most probable these were Panayano and Cebuano settlements of emigrants to Negros from Panay, Bohol, and Cebu. Another small group of Spaniards, under Mateo del Saez and Martin de Goiti, landed near Tanjay in September, 1565, to obtain supplies and gain the friendship of the natives. The Filipinos fled from the village when the Spaniards approached so they were unable to secure much food or win the villagers' friendship.[6]

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In October, 1565, Captain Miguel de Loarca, a member of Legaspi's expedition, sent the first Spanish mission to take possession of Negros. The mission consisted

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[5] Marco, op. cit., p. 16. Marco gives 1569 as the date of this landing on Negros. However, Urdaneta left Cebu on the ship San Pedro June 1, 1565, reaching Mexico in October of the same year. He died in Mexico City in 1568 and never returned to the Philippines.

[6] Edward J. McCarthy, Spanish Beginnings in the Philippines: 1564-1572. Studies in Hispanic-American History, III. Washington, D.C., The Catholic University of America Press, 1943, pp. 43-4. The following year Goiti headed another expedition to Negros that was also a failure. Ibid., p. 46.

20: Hart E-5 (1954) 1954 OA1 Philippines
Central Bisayan OA14.

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The first map of Negros was made by Diego Lopez Povedano, a Negros landowner, who made an exploratory trip of the island in 1572. He found that the Tanjay-Dumaguete area was the major center of population in eastern Negros. In western Negros another population center existed from Ilo (Ilog) in the south to Canadaguite (Candaguit, near La Carlota) in the north. Varona states this general area was "la cuna primitiva de Negros" (the original cradle of Negros). Another settled region called Tecgaguan, now Saravia, was located in the extreme north of the island. At this time the population of Negros was estimated roughly at 7,000 persons, excluding the Negritos.[10]

An early description of Negros was made by Loarca in 1582.

> West of the island of Cubu [Cebu] lies another island called by the Spanish--Negros, because its mountain districts are inhabited by some blacks [Negritos]. The Indians [Filipinos] have given it various names, such as Mayon, Mamaylan [Himamaylan], and others, all taken from the names of villages in different parts of the island. It contains some six or seven thousand Indians; but the number of blacks has not been ascertained, because of their hostility. The side of the island facing Cubu is sparsely populated; for it has only one settlement worthy of the name, which is situated on the river Tanay [Tanjay], and half of the Indians on that river are natives of Bohol. The southern side [from Panay actually the western and northern regions of Negros] and the town of Arevalo, is thickly settled; for it contains the rivers Ylo [Ilog], Ynabogan, Binalbagan, Carobcop, and Tecgaguan [Saravia],--all fertile districts, rich in foods,

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[10] Varona, op. cit., pp. 2-3.

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> such as rice, swine, and fowls; and abounding in medrinque [a cloth woven from banana fibers], although there is no cotton...The side toward Cubu has three encomiendas; and that toward Panay and the town of Arevalo has eight. All other encomienderos hold encomiendas in other parts of the island...None of its villages belong to his Majesty.[11]

The Bais lowland where Tanjay is located was probably the most attractive locality in eastern Negros. Here was the largest single area of level land with adequate water supplies, fertile soils, and the best natural harbor in Negros.[12] Its proximity to Cebu City, at this period the entrepot of the Visayas, had many advantages. Andres de Mirandola, the nephew of Urdaneta, reported to Philip II that in 1565 "The entire island [of Cebu] was densely populated and settled."[13] While this was, no doubt, an exaggeration, an attractive lowland separated by a little more than 2 miles of water must have been enticing to many Cebuanos and Boholanes. At the time of Legaspi's arrival, the southwestern part of Bohol was reported to be a well-populated region.[14]

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[11] Miguel de Loarca, "Relación de las Yslas Filipinas," (Relation of the Filipinas Islands), Panay, June, 1582. Translation in Blair and Robertson, op. cit., V, p. 47.

[12] Herbert S. Walker, La Industria Azucarera en la Isla de Negros. Manila, Departamento de Instrucción Pública, Oficina de Agricultura, Bureau of Printing, 1911, p. 63.

[13] "Letter from Andres de Mirandola to Felipe the Second," Blair and Robertson, op. cit., XXXIV, pp. 200-6.

[14] Conrado Benitez, History of the Philippines: Economic, Social, Political. New York, Ginn and Company, 1940, p. 175.

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By 1591 the population of Negros was estimated at 15,000, including both the converted Filipinos and infieles (infidels), the latter being Filipinos who had not accepted the Catholic religion.[15] This figure can be accepted as only a gross estimate. It does not include the primitive groups living in the mountains, such as the Negritos, and, doubtlessly, only part of the infieles of the island. The early population estimates of Negros were based upon tributes paid by the head of each Filipino family to their encomendero. Each tribute was usually estimated to represent a family of four persons.[16] The infieles and primitive groups were rarely included in these estimates since they did not pay tribute and it was only the "saved souls" who were counted.[17]

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[15] This first Philippine "census" was made in 1591 at the order of Governor Gomez Dasmarinas. This report stated that Negros had no encomiendas except in the extreme north "which seems to be due to the fact that its early population was almost entirely Negrito whom the Spaniards were unable to capture and control." The latter comment is by Benitez, op. cit., p. 177, also the source for the census.

[16] Most writers state that one tribute equals four individuals; Dasmarinas, Gomez Perez, "Account of the Encomiendas in the Philippines," Manila, 1591, Blair and Robertson, op. cit., VIII, p. 110 and Benitez, op. cit., p. 218. However, Manuel Buzeta and Felip Bravo, Diccionario Geográfico, Estadistico, Histórico de las Islas Filipinas, Madrid, 1851, pp. 555-9, in their 1845 population estimate of Negros used the ratio of one tribute equals five persons. In this chapter, if the ratio is other than four to one, it will be so noted.

[17] These early population estimates must be considered as only rough estimates. First, only tributes-paying Christians normally were counted; second, the ratio used to determine the population may have been faulty; third, errors of addition occur in some of the sources (such as Buzeta and Bravo, corrected in this study); fourth, Moro raids disturbed the population patterns, encouraging many Christian Filipinos to flee to the mountains where they may not have been counted. See Marco, op. cit., pp. 35-6.

later left Tanjay. It is reported that when Sanchez returned to Tanjay his converts, who had been under the charge of a secular priest, had remained steadfast in their faith. 175*

In 1591 a Spaniard named Ossorio collected 160 tributes (representing 640 persons) from the Tanjay settlement while Juan Martin collected from both Tanjay and Negros (probably just eastern Negros) 557 tributes (representing 2,228 persons). At this time the region was said to be pacified. There are some scattered references to specific populations in western Negros at this period. Albaro Perez reportedly collected 350 tributes (1,400 persons) from the Bago River locality while Francisco de Herrera collected 500 tributes (2,000 persons) from along the Ynavaga River (Binalbagan).[23] 175* 162

It was not until 1620 that Dumaguete was created as a parish independent of Tanjay under the first curate of the present capital, Juan de Rosa y Herrera. Father Herrera later organized churches in Iliga-on or Hiliga-on (Giliga-on, Siaton) and Cauitan (Sta. Catalina?). On the eastern coast of Negros the settlement moved both north and south from the Bais lowland. Tayasan was founded in 1790, Jimalalud in 1797, and Guihulngan in 175* 166 175*

[23] Dammarinas in Blair and Robertson, op. cit., VIII, pp. 131 and 136. Jesus states that when the Binalbagan convent was turned over to the Jesuits, there were 1,500 families living in the vicinity. Luis de Jesus "Historia General de Los Religiosos Descalzos" (Early Recollect Missions in the Philippines), Madrid, 1681. Partial translation in Blair and Robertson, op. cit., XXI, p. 244.

Until 1734 Negros was divided between Panay and Cebu for administrative purposes. In this year, Negros was unified as a military province. During this period of Spanish rule, there were two types of provinces, civil and military. Civil provinces were pacified areas called alcaldias while corregimientos were regions not completely pacified and governed by army officers.[31] Negros did not become a civil province until 1901.

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Nascent Siaton

The date of the first settlement of Siaton is probably lost forever in the unchronicled past. This small riverine valley on the coast of southern Negros would have been attractive to settlers. Here were two sizeable rivers, the sea with its abundant resources, and level land for cultivation. Bonbonon Bay was an excellent harbor for small boats and the region was near Cebu and Bohol, which in the 16th century were sending out emigrants in search of new farm land. In 1620 Siaton is reported to have been under the jurisdiction of the Dumaguete parish.[32] This would indicate that during the first part of the 17th century Siaton was known, and that there probably was a settlement in the area and a sufficient number of people to interest the Church. On the other hand, southern Negros was located

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[31] Arturo M. Tolentino and Gregorio F. Zaide, The Government of the Philippines: Origin, Development, Organization and Function. Manila, R. P. Garcia Publishing Company, 1948, p. 55.

[32] Ruiz, op. cit., p. 151.

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along one of the main sea routes of the Moros to Panay and Cebu; this fact probably retarded the region's development. It seems plausible to believe that Visayans were living in this locality during the first part of the 17th century, if not earlier.

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Siaton is said to have obtained its name from Aton, the paternal uncle of Apak, an 18th century capitan of the locality.[33] The exact date of Apak's office is not known but Cadiane's manuscript states that he was succeeded by Capitan Buroganibong in 1779. Aton lived near the present site of the Catholic church in the poblacion. Then the Siaton River had a different course and when the tide was high, fair-sized boats could navigate the river from its mouth almost to the location of the present church, a distance of nearly a mile. Aton was said to be more than eighty years old, quite poor, and on friendly terms with the Moros when the people and the thirteen capitans pasados (former capitans) decided to name the place Siaton in his honor. Si is the Cebuano article used with proper nouns and titles of respect. For example, the "kings" of Bohol when Legaspi arrived

[33] At this period local government in the Philippines was under the direction of the capitan or gobernadorcillo (little governor) who administered the poblacions, assisted by a teniente mayor (chief lieutenant) and other officials. For administrative purposes the poblacion (sometimes called pueblo) was divided into barangays (barrio districts) in charge of the cabeza de barangay who was appointed by the capitan. Zaide, The Philippines Since the British Invasion, pp. 161-2.

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in the Philippines were called either Katuna or Sikatuna and Gala or Sigala.[34]

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The major settlement in the Siaton locality was Barrio Bokoboko which was situated on the west bank of the Canaway River. The Gadiane manuscript states that a Spanish priest named Suniga visited Bokoboko sometime before 1777 and found the barrio inhabited by 27 persons. He is reported to have gone as far west as the present location of Tolong.[35] Here he found seven persons with the family name of Magsumanay. Suniga was probably a Dumaguete priest making an inspection trip through southern Negros.

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[34]Aton was believed to have a powerful anting-anting (amulet that protected him from the Moros). Another version of how this area received its name is that a man named Agaton had a surface well near the river bank where one could obtain unusually pure and cool water. When visitors drank this water, they inquired of its source. The people would say: "It comes from Siagaton's well" which was eventually shortened to Siaton.

[35]Tolong has had a number of names in the past. The original site was said to have been at Omod about 3 miles inland from the present poblacion. One Sunday an enraged Filipino murdered the priest during mass as the latter was in the act of raising the chalice called "bayaw." From this incident the settlement became known as Bayawan. This story is told by Lilia Quindo, "A Brief History of Tolong," Tolong Fiesta Program, 1952, pp. 3-4--a source not beyond suspicion but probably reporting what many residents believe today. Sta. Catalina was then known as Old Tolong. Bayawan later was called New Tolong and finally shortened to Tolong while Old Tolong assumed its present name, Sta. Catalina. Ruiz states that Tolong was once known as Cauitan. It is not certain if he refers to New Tolong (now Tolong) or Old Tolong (now Sta. Catalina). Ruiz, op. cit., p. 151.

20: Hart E-5 (1951) 1954 OA1 Philippines
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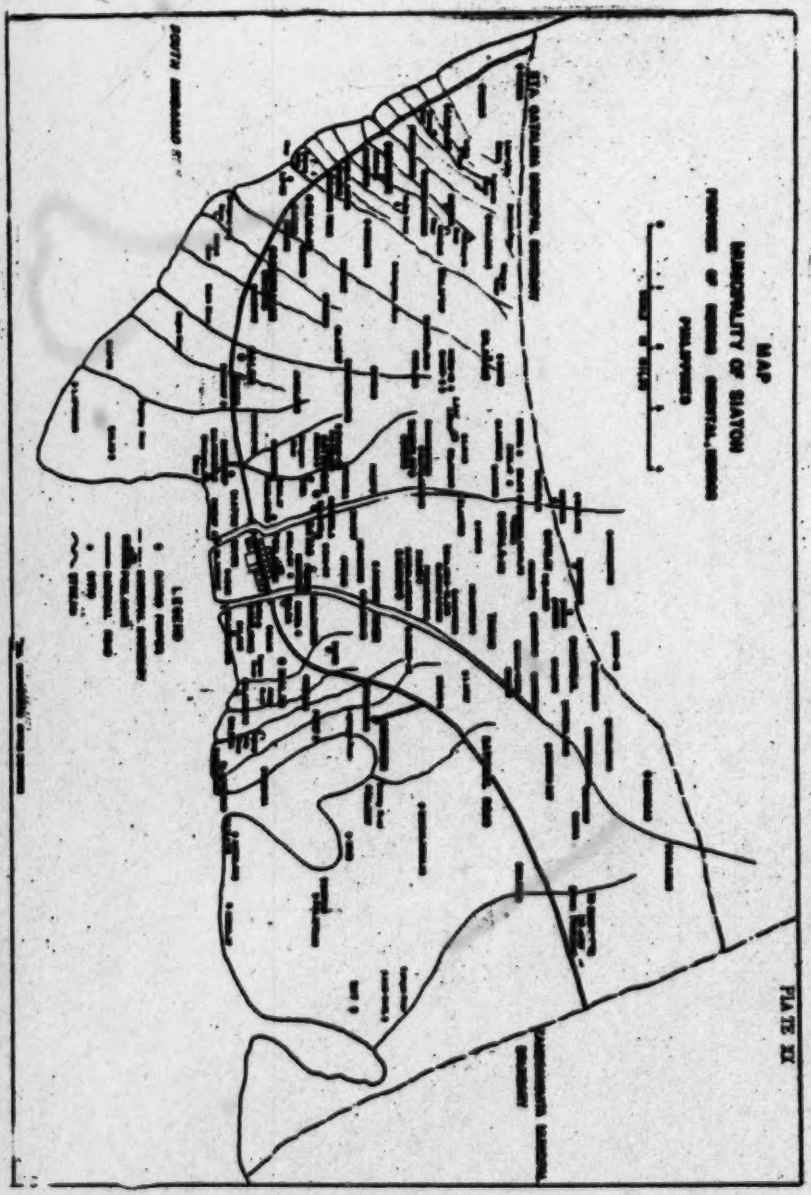

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River, and had 714 tributos (taxpayers). Using the ratio 1:4 this would mean by the middle of the 19th century there were about 2,800 people in the Siaton parish. This figure includes only the Christian Filipinos, not the pagans who lived in the mountains; there were many in the parish. For example, when Mezquita made his first visit to Bawayan (Tolong) he baptized 100 monteses (hill or pagan people). Visits to Basay (west of Tolong) by Mezquita resulted in eighty baptized pagans and another visit gained the Church an additional thirty converts.

The Population of Negros in 1845

Negros' population had not grown very rapidly since the Spaniards' arrival. In 1845-50 the island had its first fairly detailed census based upon the municipal unit. Using the tribute ratio 1:5 Negros was estimated to have a population of 58,720 persons in 1845.[52] There were two major population centers, the Bais lowland and the vicinity of Bacolod. In western Negros the population concentration had been steadily moving north probably due to the availability of excellent land and the proximity of overcrowded Panay. On the other hand, both Echauz and Marco state that in 1850 there were only 30,000 inhabitants in Negros which had seventeen towns (pueblos).[53] It is difficult to determine which estimate

[52] Buzeta and Bravo, op. cit., pp. 555-9.

[53] Echauz, op. cit., p. 33 and Marco, op. cit., p. 99. Marco probably used Echauz and Echauz gives no indication of his source for this population estimate.

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For the barriofolk of Caticugan and the residents of Siaton poblacion today the Negritos and Bukidnons are people who are seldom discussed and rarely seen.

Siaton's first Chinese settled in the poblacion during the Spanish period, two unrelated bachelors who had been born in Amoy. Opening stores in the poblacion, they soon married local girls. By 1932 there were reported to be six "full-blooded" Chinese storekeepers in the poblacion while in 1953 there were only four Chinese merchants. Two of these Chinese were mestizos and the other two were born in Canton.

In 1951, under the Alien Registration Act, 850 Chinese living in Negros Oriental registered at Dumaguete. This figure did not include Chinese mestizos or Chinese who are naturalized citizens of the Republic. Of the 850 Chinese who registered, less than 10 per cent were Cantonese, the rest emigrants from southern Fukien. Cheng writes: "In the case of Dumaguete, most of the Fukienese came from the island of Amoy in the southern part of the province, with a smaller number coming from neighboring villages and hsiens [towns or administrative districts] of Lungki and Tsinkiang in sharp contrast with Manila where the reverse is true."[62] At present the

[62] Thomas S. Cheng, "A Cultural Study of the Chinese Community," Silliman University, Dumaguete City, Negros Oriental, March 26, 1951, p. 3. Unpublished student report; typescript. Cheng calls Lungki by its former name, Changchow, and refers to Chuanchow now better known as Tsinkiang. Webster's Geographical Dictionary. Springfield, Massachusetts, G. & C. Merriam Company, 1949, pp. 641 and 1163.